



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

27 OCTOBER 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE ITEMS

Communist China

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chinese claims that they detonated a nuclear device in the low atmosphere about ninety miles from Lop Nor this morning.

The Chinese announced that they had fired a missile carrying a nuclear warhead and that the warhead detonated on target.

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This was the fourth nuclear explosion detected in China since Peking began its test program in October 1964.

Soviet Union

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The Soviets also set off a nuclear shot--an underground one--at Novaya Zemlya today.

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1. South Vietnam

After his return from Manila, Ky moved quickly to minimize the effects of the simmering cabinet crisis. He accepted the resignation of Economy Minister Thanh and then persuaded four of the remaining six dissident ministers to stay in the cabinet.

The constituent assembly elected a young northern Catholic as secretary general, the number two post, thus balancing off the elderly moderate southerner previously elected chairman. The southerners are the largest regional bloc in the assembly, but the lack of a southern extremist among the top officers should keep them from dominating assembly proceedings.

Ky continues to face the problem of calming student, Catholic, and labor groups who joined the southerners in expressing indignation over police-state methods during the recent cabinet crisis. He must also deal eventually with Defense Minister Co and IV Corps commander Quang who will attempt to exploit regional animosities to their own advantage. Ky has been threatening to get rid of Co and Quang for months and may now feel that he has the necessary backing to do so.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviets announced this afternoon that Kosygin will repay De Gaulle's visit to Moscow by making an official junket to France in early December. Brezhnev and Podgorny will do the same sometime next year.

3. West Germany

The four Free Democratic members of the cabinet have resigned--a heavy if not fatal blow to the Erhard government. The Chancellor in turn has decided to attempt to run a minority government, but opponents in his own party may well turn him out instead.

If Erhard goes, the Christian Democrats and Free Democrats may try to rebuild the coalition around Christian Democrat parliamentary chief Barzel or Bundestag President Gerstenmaier. Prospects for a coalition with the Social Democrats are not good.

4. Congo

Mulamba tried to reverse his course and accept the defense portfolio late last night, but Mobutu's line so far is "sorry, too late." Officials on the spot now expect that Mulamba will be brought before a military tribunal and charged directly with instigating the Kisangani mutiny.

Kinshasa is still calm.

5. Thailand

Communist terrorists are stepping up their activity in the northeast.

[redacted] assassinations of village leaders and police informants; there have also been at least four skirmishes recently between police and insurgent elements.

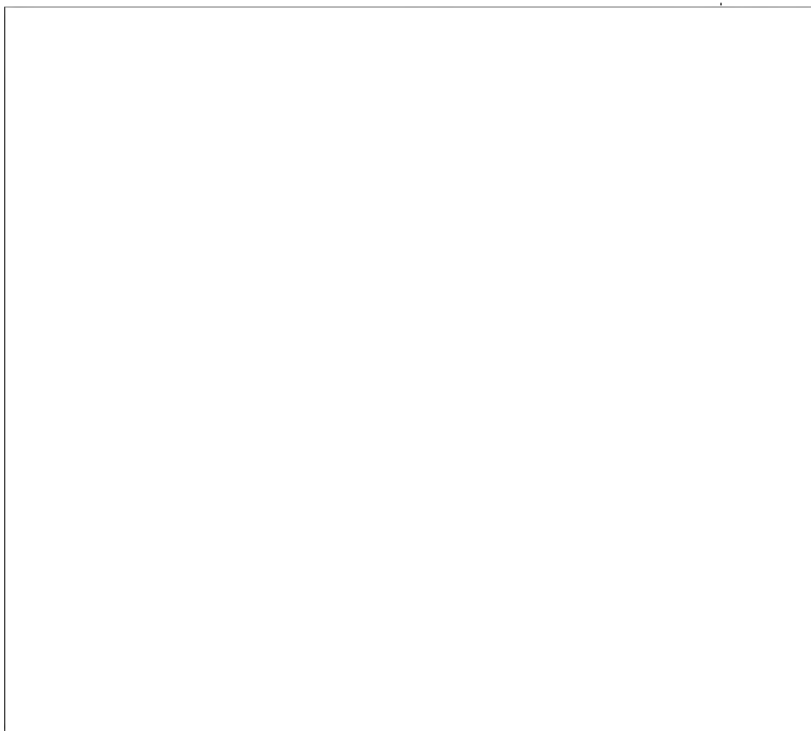
This upswing in fighting comes at the end of an unusually heavy rainy season--a period which badly hampered operations on both sides.

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6. Vietnam

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